

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming system comprising:

(a) an image forming apparatus comprising:

(1) an image reading means for reading a document and converting into image data,

(2) a function selection means for enabling an operator who operates the image reading means to select a desired image processing function,

(3) a first image processing means for image-processing image data read out by the image reading means,

(4) a read-out data transferring means for transferring the image data read out by the image reading means onto a network,

(5) an image forming means for forming an image according to the image-processed image data, and

(6) a control means for controlling an image processing and an image formation according to the function selection means; and

(b) an image processing apparatus connected to the network, comprising:

(1) a second image processing means for processing the image data transferred by the read-out data transferring means, and

(2) a writing data transferring means for transferring the image data processed by the second image processing means onto the network,

wherein the control means transfers the image data to the image processing apparatus connected to the network by the read-out data transferring means according to the image processing function selected by the function selection means, and conducts a second control to transfer the image data processed by the second image processing means to the image forming apparatus by the writing data transferring means.

2. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the second image processing means conducts an image processing by software.

3. The image forming system of claim 2, wherein the image processing of the second image processing means includes at least one of a fair copy function, an inclination correction function, a dirt removal function, a font conversion function and a character recognition function.

4. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the control means is capable of conducting a first control to make the first image processing means to process the image data in response to the image processing function selected by the function selection means.

5. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the image processing apparatus is a computer having a communication function.

6. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the image processing apparatus is an image forming apparatus having a communication function.

7. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein in the second control, the function selection means communicates with the second image processing means, and obtains function information which can be processed by the second image processing means, and presents to the operator as a selectable function.

8. The image forming system of claim 7, wherein the image forming apparatus further comprises a third data memory means capable of storing information in relation to an image

processing function which can be selected by the function selection means, and function information which can be processed by the second image processing means, has been stored in the third data memory means in advance.

9. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the function selection means comprises a display means capable of displaying a plurality of image processing functions.

10. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the reading data transferring means and the writing data transferring means employ an E-Mail on the Internet, ftp protocol or http protocol.

11. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the image data converted by the image reading means is the multi-valued luminance data.

12. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the image data converted by the image reading means is the compression data.

13. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus further comprises a first data memory

means for storing the image data for each document processed by the first image processing means.

14. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus further comprises a second data memory means for storing the image data processed by the second image processing means.

15. The image forming system of claim 1, further comprising a processing method change means for changing a processing method of the first image processing means according to the function selected by the function selection means.

16. The image forming system of claim 15, wherein when image data is processed by the second image processing means, the processing method change means processes according to the function selected by the function selection means so that the first image processing means regards the image data converted by the image reading means as multiple-valued luminance data.

17. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the first image processing means comprises data compression processing.

18. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the second image processing means is commonly used by a plurality of read-out data transferring means.

19. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the control means communicates with other devices connected to the network on the basis of network addresses.

20. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein when the read-out data transferring means transfers the image data to the image processing apparatus, the read-out data transferring means transfers while adding an address on the network of the read-out data transferring means to the image data.

21. The image forming system of claim 20, wherein the image data processed by the second image processing means is transferred onto the image forming apparatus on the basis of the added address.

22. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the priority is provided in the processing conducted by the image forming apparatus, and the control means controls so that

other processing with a lower priority is not conducted while a processing with a higher priority is conducted.

23. The image forming system of claim 22, wherein the processing by which the priority is provided is in the processing of the basic function and the processing of the network function, and the priority of the processing of the basic function is set higher than that of processing of the network function.

24. The image forming system of claim 23, wherein the processing of the basic function and the processing of the network function are controlled and conducted by a single CPU.

25. The image forming system of claim 22, wherein the priority can be arbitrarily changed.

26. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the data transferred through the network has an area showing a logical channel different depending on the kind of the data.

27. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus further comprises a compression

selection means capable of selecting whether data is transferred while being compressed or uncompressed, when the data is transferred through the network.

28. An image forming apparatus capable of being connected to a network, comprising:

(a) an image reading means for reading a document and converting into image data;

(b) a function selection means for enabling an operator who operates the image reading means to select a desired image processing function;

(c) a first image processing means for image processing the image data read out by the image reading means;

(d) a reading data transferring means for transferring the image data read out by the image reading means onto the network;

(e) an image forming means for forming an image according to the image processed image data; and

(f) a control means for controlling an image processing and an image formation according to the function selection means,

wherein the control means conducts a second control to transfer the image data onto the network by the reading data transferring means, to direct the image processing, and to



receive the image data after the image processing, according to the image processing function selected by the function selection means.

29. The image forming apparatus of claim 28, wherein the control means is capable of conducting a first control to make the first image processing means to process the image data in response to the image processing function selected by the function selection means.

30. The image forming apparatus of claim 28, wherein in the second control, the function selection means communicates with an image processing apparatus connected to a network, and obtains function information which can be processed by the image processing apparatus, and presents to the operator as a selectable function.

31. The image forming apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a third data memory means capable of storing information in relation to an image processing function which can be selected by the function selection means, and function information which can be processed by the image processing means, has been stored in the third data memory means in advance.

32. The image forming apparatus of claim 28, wherein the function selection means comprises a display means capable of displaying a plurality of image processing functions.

33. The image forming apparatus of claim 28, further comprising a first data memory means for storing the image data for each document processed by the first image processing means.

34. The image forming apparatus of claim 28, wherein the first image processing means comprises means for data compressing processing.

35. The image forming apparatus of claim 28, wherein the control means communicates with image processing apparatus connected to the network on the basis of network addresses.

36. The image forming apparatus of claim 35, wherein when the read-out data transferring means transfers the image data to the image processing apparatus, the read-out data transferring means transfers while adding an address on the

network of the read-out data transferring means to the image data.

37. The image forming apparatus of claim 36, wherein the image data processed by the image processing means is transferred onto the image forming apparatus on the basis of the added address.